

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a customized digital image, the method comprising:

receiving a first digital image from an image capture device having a selector for identifying the first digital image as a template image;

determining one or more placement regions from the first digital image by applying an image analysis technique to the first digital image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the first digital image for placing a digital image from a first set of digital images;

identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region; and

for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, placing a digital image from the first set of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
creating a link between the customized digital image and at least one digital image from a second set of digital images, wherein the link enables access to the at least one digital image from the second set of digital images using the customized digital image.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a user input indicating selection of a digital image in the customized digital image; and

in response to receiving the user input, retrieving a digital image from a second set of digital images, the retrieved image from the second set of digital images being linked to the digital image selected in the customized digital image.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the first digital image comprises:

scanning a paper medium on which the one or more placement regions have been indicated to generate the first digital image.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the first digital image comprises:

photographing a paper medium on which the one or more placement regions have been indicated to generate the first digital image.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more bounded regions.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more text fragments.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more marks.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region comprises:

determining image identification information associated with at least a first placement region of the one or more placement regions from the first digital image, the image identification information identifying an attribute of a digital image to be placed in the at least first placement region; and

identifying a first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein identifying the first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region comprises:

identifying a digital image from the first set of digital images as the first digital image if information associated with the digital image matches the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region comprises:

determining image identification information associated with at least a first placement region of the one or more placement regions from the first digital image, the image identification information identifying an attribute of a digital image to be placed in the at least first placement region;

determining a time stamp associated with each digital image in the first set of digital images; and

identifying a first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region and the time stamp associated with each digital image in the first set of digital images.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein placing a digital image from the first set of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image comprises:

adjusting the digital image to fit the placement region.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein adjusting the digital image to fit the placement region comprises scaling the digital image to fit the placement region.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein adjusting the digital image to fit the placement region comprises cropping the digital image to fit the placement region.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:
for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a size of the digital image placed in the placement region is determined by a size of the placement region.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a customized digital image, the method comprising:

receiving a signal comprising digital signals representative of a plurality of digital images, the plurality of digital images captured using an image capture device;

determining a template image from the plurality of digital images based upon a selection entered via the image capture device;

determining one or more placement regions from the template image by applying an image analysis technique to the template image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the template image for receiving a digital image from the plurality of digital images;

identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the plurality of digital images to be placed in the placement region; and

for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, placing a copy of a digital image from the plurality of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a customized digital image, the method comprising:

receiving a first digital image using an image capture device having a selectable mode for capturing a template image;

analyzing the first digital image by applying an image analysis technique to the first digital image to determine a first placement region on the first digital image for placing a second digital image; and

placing the second digital image in the first placement region on the first digital image to generate the customized digital image.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the second digital image is a copy of a third digital image.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
creating a link between the customized digital image and a third digital image, wherein the link enables access to the third digital image using the customized digital image.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
receiving a user input indicating selection of the second digital image placed in the first placement region in the customized digital image; and
in response to receiving the user input, retrieving a third digital image that is linked to the second digital image.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein receiving the second digital image comprises:
scanning a paper medium on which the first placement region is marked to generate the first digital image.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein receiving the first digital image comprises:
photographing a paper medium on which the first placement region is marked to generate the first digital image.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a customized digital image using a digital camera, the method comprising:

capturing one or more images using the digital camera with the digital camera in a first mode;

capturing a template image by ~~scanning~~ imaging a paper medium with the digital camera in a second mode;

determining in the digital camera one or more placement regions from the template image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the template image for placing an image from the one or more images captured using the digital camera;

identifying in the digital camera, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, an image from the one or more images to be placed in the placement region; and

for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, placing a copy of an image from the one or more images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a customized digital image using a digital camera, the method comprising:

using the digital camera to capture one or more images with the digital camera operative in a first mode;

using the digital camera to capture a template image with the digital camera in a second mode, the template image comprising one or more bounded regions, each bounded region of the one or more bounded regions identifying a location on the template image for placing an image of the one or more images captured using the digital camera; and

obtaining the customized image from the digital camera, wherein the customized digital image is generated by placing a copy of at least one image from the one or more images in at least one bounded region on the template image.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein:

using the digital camera to capture the template image comprises:

imprinting the one or more bounded regions on a paper medium;

selecting a button of the digital camera; and
using the digital camera to capture an image of the paper medium while the button of the digital camera is selected; and

using the digital camera to capture the one or more images comprises capturing the one or more images using the digital camera without selecting the button of the digital camera.

27. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a customized digital image, the system comprising:

an input module; and

a processing module;

wherein the input module is configured to receive a first digital image captured with an image capture device operable in a first mode and a second mode, the first mode for capturing a template image; and

wherein the processing module is configured to:

determine one or more placement regions from the first digital image by applying an image analysis technique to the first digital image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the first digital image for placing a digital image from a first set of digital images;

identify, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region; and

for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, place a digital image from the first set of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the processing module is further configured to create a link between the customized digital image and at least one digital image in a second set of digital images, wherein the link enables access to the at least one digital image from the second set of digital images using the customized digital image.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein:
the input module is configured to receive a user input indicating selection of a digital image in the customized digital image; and
the processing module is configured to, in response to the user input, retrieve a digital image from a second set of digital images, the retrieved digital image being linked to the digital image selected in the customized digital image.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27 further comprising a scanner configured to scan a paper medium on which the one or more placement regions have been indicated to generate the first digital image.

32. (Original) The system of claim 27 further comprising an image capture module configured to photograph a paper medium on which the one or more placement regions have been indicated to generate the first digital image.

33. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more bounded regions.

34. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by using one or more text fragments.

35. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more marks.

36. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein in order to identify, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region, the processing module is configured to:
determine image identification information associated with at least a first placement region of the one or more placement regions from the first digital image, the image identification information identifying an attribute of a digital image to be placed in the at least first placement region; and

identify a first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein in order to identify the first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region, the processing module is configured to:

identify a digital image from the first set of digital images as the first digital image if information associated with the digital image matches the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region.

38. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein in order to identify, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region, the processing module is configured to:

determine image identification information associated with at least a first placement region of the one or more placement regions from the first digital image, the image identification information identifying an attribute of a digital image to be placed in the at least first placement region;

determine a time stamp associated with each digital image in the first set of digital images; and

identify a first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region and the time stamp associated with each digital image in the first set of digital images.

39. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the processing module is configured to place a digital image from the first set of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image by adjusting the digital image to fit the placement region.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein the processing module adjusts the digital image to fit the placement region by scaling the digital image to fit the placement region.

41. (Original) The system of claim 39 wherein the processing module adjusts the digital image to fit the placement region by cropping the digital image to fit the placement region.

42. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein:
for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a size of the digital image placed in the placement region is determined by a size of the placement region.

43. (Original) A digital camera that incorporates the system of claim 27.

44. (Original) A copying machine that incorporates the system of claim 27.

45. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a customized digital image, the system comprising:
a processor; and
a memory coupled to the processor, the memory configured to store a plurality of code modules for execution by the processor, the plurality of code modules including:
a code module for receiving a signal comprising digital signals representative of a plurality of digital images, the plurality of digital images captured with an image capture device having a selector for operating the image capture device in a first mode or a second mode, the first mode for capturing a template image;
a code module for determining a template image from the plurality of digital images;
a code module for determining one or more placement regions from the template image by applying an image analysis technique to the template image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the template image for receiving a digital image from the plurality of digital images;

a code module for identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the plurality of digital images to be placed in the placement region; and

a code module for placing, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a copy of a digital image from the plurality of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

46. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a customized digital image, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory for storing a program;

wherein the processor is operative with the program to:

receive a first digital image from an image capture device having a selector for operating the image capture device in a first mode or a second mode, the first mode for capturing a template image;

receive a second digital image;

analyze the second digital image by applying an image analysis technique to the second digital image to determine a first placement region on the second digital image for placing the first digital image; and

place the first digital image in the first placement region on the second digital image to generate the customized digital image.

47. (Original) The system of claim 46 wherein the first digital image is a copy of a third digital image.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the processor is operative with said program to create a link between the customized digital image and a third digital image, wherein the link enables access to the third digital image using the customized digital image.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the processor is operative with said program to:

receive a user input indicating selection of the first digital image placed in the first placement region in the customized digital image; and

in response to receiving the user input, to retrieve a third digital image that is linked to the first digital image.

50. (Original) The system of claim 46 wherein the processor is operative with said program to scan a paper medium on which the first placement region is marked to generate the first digital image.

51. (Original) The system of claim 46 wherein the processor is operative with said program to photograph a paper medium on which the first placement region is marked to generate the first digital image.

52. (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising:

a processor; and

a memory for storing a program;

wherein the processor is operative with the program to:

receive one or more images from an image capture device, the image capture device operative in a first mode or a second mode, the first mode for capturing one or more template images;

receive a template image from the image capture device;

determine one or more placement regions from the template image by applying an image analysis technique to the template image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the template image for placing an image from the one or more images captured using the digital camera;

identify, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, an image from the one or more images to be placed in the placement region; and

for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, place a copy of an image from the one or more images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

53. (Original) The digital camera of claim 52 further comprising a first button which when selected indicates that an image received by the digital camera is a template image.

54. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a customized digital image, the apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory for storing a program;

wherein the processor is operative with the program to:

receive a first image from an image capture device, the image capture device operative in a first mode or a second mode, the first mode for capturing one or more template images;

determine a first placement region and a second placement region from the first image by applying an image analysis technique to the first image; and

compose the customized digital image by placing a second image in the first placement region on the first image and by placing a third image in the second placement region on the first image.

55. (Original) A digital camera that incorporates the apparatus of claim 54.

56. (Original) A copier machine that incorporates the apparatus of claim 54.

57. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium for generating a customized digital image, the computer program comprising:

code for receiving a first digital image from an image capture device, the image capture device operative in a first mode or a second mode, the first mode for capturing one or more template images;

code for determining one or more placement regions from the first digital image by applying an image analysis technique to the first digital image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the first digital image for placing a digital image from a first set of digital images;

code for identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region; and

for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, code for placing a digital image from the first set of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 57 further comprising code for creating a link between the customized digital image and at least one digital image in a second set of digital images, wherein the link enables access to the at least one digital image from the second set of digital images using the customized digital image.

59. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 57 further comprising:

code for receiving a user input indicating selection of a digital image in the customized digital image; and

code for retrieving, responsive to receiving the user input, a digital image from a second set of digital images, the retrieved image being linked to the digital image selected in the customized digital image.

60. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the code for receiving the first digital image comprises:

code for scanning a paper medium on which the one or more placement regions have been indicated to generate the first digital image.

61. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the code for receiving the first digital image comprises:

code for photographing a paper medium on which the one or more placement regions have been indicated to generate the first digital image.

62. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more bounded regions.

63. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more text fragments.

64. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the one or more placement regions on the first digital image are indicated by one or more marks.

65. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the code for identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region comprises:

code for determining image identification information associated with at least a first placement region of the one or more placement regions from the first digital image, the image identification information identifying an attribute of a digital image to be placed in the at least first placement region; and

code for identifying a first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region.

66. (Original) The computer program product of claim 65 wherein the code for identifying the first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region comprises:

code for identifying a digital image from the first set of digital images as the first digital image if information associated with the digital image matches the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region.

67. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein the code for identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the placement region comprises:

code for determining image identification information associated with at least a first placement region of the one or more placement regions from the first digital image, the image identification information identifying an attribute of a digital image to be placed in the at least first placement region;

code for determining a time stamp associated with each digital image in the first set of digital images; and

code for identifying a first digital image from the first set of digital images to be placed in the at least first placement region based upon the image identification information associated with the at least first placement region and the time stamp associated with each digital image in the first set of digital images.

68. (Original) The computer program product of claim 57 wherein:
for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a size of the digital image placed in the placement region is determined by a size of the placement region; and
the code for placing a digital image from the first set of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image comprises code for adjusting the digital image to fit the placement region.

69. (Original) The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the code for adjusting the digital image to fit the placement region comprises code for scaling the digital image to fit the placement region.

70. (Original) The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the code for adjusting the digital image to fit the placement region comprises code for cropping the digital image to fit the placement region.

71. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium for generating a customized digital image, the computer program product comprising:

code for receiving a signal comprising digital signals representative of a plurality of digital images from an image capture device, the image capture device operative in a first mode or a second mode, the first mode for capturing one or more template images;

code for determining a template image from the plurality of digital images;

code for determining one or more placement regions from the template image by applying an image analysis technique to the template image, each placement region of the one or more placement regions identifying a location on the template image for receiving a digital image from the plurality of digital images;

code for identifying, for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, a digital image from the plurality of digital images to be placed in the placement region; and

for each placement region of the one or more placement regions, code for placing a copy of a digital image from the plurality of digital images identified for the placement region in the placement region to generate the customized digital image.

72. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium for generating a customized digital image, the computer program product comprising:

code for receiving a first digital image from an image capture device, the image capture device operative in a first mode or a second mode, the first mode for capturing one or more template images;

code for analyzing the first digital image by applying an image analysis technique to the first digital image to determine a first placement region on the first digital image for placing a second digital image; and

code for placing the second digital image in the first placement region on the first digital image to generate the customized digital image.

73. (Original) The computer program product of claim 72 wherein the second digital image is a copy of a third digital image.

74. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 72 further comprising:

code for creating a link between the customized digital image and a third digital image, wherein the link enables access to the third digital image using the customized digital image.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 72 further comprising:

code for receiving a user input indicating selection of the second digital image placed in the first placement region in the customized image; and

code for retrieving, responsive to receiving the user input, a third digital image that is linked to the second digital image.

76. (Original) The computer program product of claim 72 wherein the code for receiving the second digital image comprises:

code for scanning a paper medium on which the first placement region is marked to generate the first digital image.

77. (Original) The computer program product of claim 72 wherein the code for receiving the first digital image comprises:

code for photographing a paper medium on which the first placement region is marked to generate the first digital image.